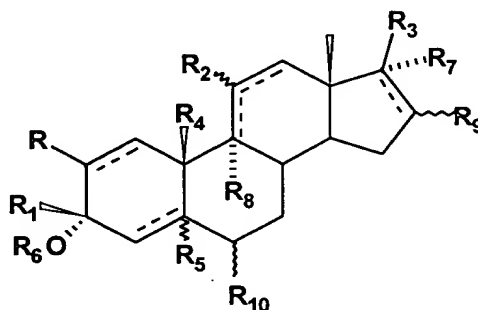


## Neuroactive Steroids of the Androstane and Pregnane Series

### *Abstract*

The invention relates to 3 $\alpha$ -hydroxy, 17-(un)substituted derivatives of the androstane series and 3 $\alpha$ -hydroxy, 21-substituted derivatives of the pregnane series. These derivatives are capable of acting at a recently identified site on the GRC, thereby modulating brain excitability in a manner that will alleviate stress, anxiety, insomnia, mood disorders that are amenable to GRC-active agents (such as depression) and seizure activity. The steroid derivatives of this invention are those having the general structural Formula:



wherein R, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> are further defined herein and the dotted lines are single or double bonds. The structure includes androstanes, pregnanes (R<sub>4</sub> = methyl), 19-norandrostanes, and norpregnanes (R<sub>4</sub> = H).